

Message Text

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42

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SCSE-00 SCA-01 SY-05 L-03 SSO-00 INRE-00 /035 W

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O 251530Z JUL 75 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1603

USSS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 813

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS FREETOWN 1757

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CFED

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF FRANCESCO TAMMER, ET AL, USSS FILE

REF: A. FREETOWN 1749 B. PARIS 19183 C. FREETOWN 1236

1. ATTORNEY GENERAL PRATT HAS JUST PAID URGENT CALL ON AMBASSADOR. PRATT HAD JUST RETURNED FROM THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT STEVENS ON ABOVE SUBJECT. STEVENS INSTRUCTED PRATT TO DEPORT SUSPECTS ASAP, WITHOUT TRIAL ON COUNTERFEIT CHARGES, PRESUMABLY TO ITALY. PRATT CONCERNED THAT, IF SUSPECTS RELEASED WITHOUT CONVICTION, COUNTERFEIT BILLS WOULD HAVE TO BE RETURNED TO THEM. HE ASKED IF EMBASSY WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO RECEIVE THEM FOR FORWARDING TO USG.

2. AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS UNSURE WHETHER HE WAS IN POSITION TO ACCEPT BILLS UNLESS GOSL WOULD STATE THEY WERE COUNTERFEIT, BUT PROMISED TO INQUIRE TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE. PRATT INDICATED GOSL UNWILLINGNESS TO DECLARE BILLS COUNTERFEIT WITHOUT TRIAL OR TO BURN OR OTHERWISE DESTROY OR TO RETAIN BILLS, BUT STATED THAT PRESIDENT UNHAPPY WITH GOSL BEING VENUE FOR TRIAL ON THIS ISSUE ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE NO LOCAL EXPERTS TO DETERMINE AUTHENTICITY OF BILLS.

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3. AMBASSADOR TOLD PRATT THAT EMBASSY AND USG HAD

BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH CID ON THIS MATTER AND THAT ONLY TODAY WE RECEIVED CONCURRENCE WITH CID REQUEST THAT USG PROVIDE EXPERT TESTIMONY ON COUNTERFEIT NATURE OF CURRENCY. US TREASURY SPECIAL AGENT ARRIVING NEXT WEEK AT REQUEST CID.

4. UPON HEARING THIS PRATT REVISED HIS THINKING. IF TRIAL COULD BE CONDUCTED IN ONE WEEK, HE BELIEVED STEVENS WOULD CONCUR IN SUCH A TRIAL. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AFTER CONVICTION, WHICH PRATT ASSUMED, SUSPECTS WOULD STILL BE DEPORTED AND CURRENCY AND FORGED BANK DRAFTS (REFTEL C) WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO EMBASSY. PRATT WOULD LIKE CHALFANT TO ARRIVE MONDAY, JULY 28.

5. PRATT SAID GOSL PLANS PROVIDE NO ESCORT TO SUSPECTS ONCE DEPORTED. THEREFORE NO ASSURANCE THAT SUSPECTS WILL NOT DEPLANE SOMEWHERE EN ROUTE, PRIOR TO ARRIVAL ROME.

6. GOSL APPEARS TO HAVE NO FIRM VIEWS CONCERNING DEPORTATION DESIGNATION, MERELY ASSUMPTION THAT AS HOLDERS OF ITALIAN PASSPORTS, THEY SHOULD BE DEPORTED TO ROME. SINCE SUSPECTS ARE BOTH PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF US, DOES USG WISH TO REQUEST THEY BE DEPORTED TO US, POSSIBLY TO FACE FURTHER CHARGES? IF SO, PRESUME ESCORT TO BE PROVIDED BY USG. IF YOU DESIRE ACTION ON ABOVE OVER WEEKEND, PLEASE ADVISE BY NIACT IMMEDIATE. SAMUELS

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